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reasonable distance of Nagercoil fed by the Kodayar waters. The subject might now be taken in hand as the Kodayar Project has been completed, and the member suggested that the amount that could be realised by levying a water-rate would suffice for the payment of a fair percentage of interest on the capital outlay and the up-keep and maintenance of the scheme. He requested therefore that orders be issued to investigate the scheme and prepare the necessary plans and estimates, and added that sub-committees have been appointed, one to investigate the subject of water-supply, and another to report on the feasibility of raising funds by the levy of certain taxes and tolls as contemplated in the Regulation.

Dewan's reply.—Government are now spending about Rs. 8,000 annually on the Nagercoil town. The Committee had better first take action to impose a house-tax, which they are competent to do under the T. I. C. Regulation now in force, and give some relief to the general finances. Government will, after that, take up the further question of spending more money on the town, and also the suggestion, made by the member, to impose further taxation in the shape of a water-rate. It is suggested by the member that the Regulation may be amended and power taken to impose new taxes. But the Committee have not used the power, they already have under the existing Regulation, to impose house-tax. Only when that is done, will Government consider the question of spending more money on the town.

101. ***Survey of porambokes in Nagercoil town.***

Mr. S. Subramony Iyer also represented the necessity for a sketch survey of porambokes within the limits of the Nagercoil town. The want of such a survey led to difficulties in settling questions of encroachment. There were in the town nearly 350 streets, 200 lanes and an equal number of water-courses, besides some rain-fed tanks. The measurements taken at the Settlement were, in some cases, inaccurate or imperfect, and indefinite or misleading. On sanitary and other grounds, it was highly advisable that encroachments on porambokes were effectually guarded against, especially in a thickly populated town like Nagercoil where the price of land ruled high.

Dewan's reply.—As in the matter of water-supply to the town, Government sympathise with the proposal made by the member to have a sketch survey of the porambokes within the town. The acting Survey Superintendent says that the work will cost about Rs. 10,000. Where will the Committee find the money? A survey like this,

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to be useful, must be minute. I therefore suggest that, as soon as the member returns to his place, he may assure his fellow-townsmen that Government are quite as anxious as they are to put towns like these on a proper basis and to improve them, and the member may press the question of taking action under the power already vested in the Committee to impose a house-tax. I would suggest to the member to advise his fellow-townsmen on these lines.

102. Development of the Srimulapuram harbour.

Mr. D. Francis urged that the Srimulapuram harbour at Cape Comorin be further developed. The existing ports of Travancore were available for shipping only during six months of the year; and hence commerce by sea was entirely at a standstill during the remaining period, that is, when the south-west monsoon prevailed. The importance of a place on the sea-board which possessed a fine natural harbour protected from both the monsoons must therefore be necessarily great. That advantage they had in the existence of the Srimulapuram harbour. He therefore requested that Government take up the matter of developing the harbour.

Dewan's reply.—The Srimulapuram harbour is a recognised sea-port. A staff of one petty-officer and 3 peons is now maintained there for excise purposes. Messrs. Parry and Co. are proposing to export certain articles from the port, and have requested Government to improve certain roads, and Government are taking action accordingly. The port can only be developed gradually. No large outlay can now be made on it.

ERANIEL TALUK.

103. Restoration of tanks.

Mr. Raman Tampi requested that rain-fed and other irrigation tanks in the taluk be completely restored. In case any tank was to be done away with, and the land auctioned, he said that the opinion of the ryots concerned might be taken and considered.

Dewan's reply.—On the report of the Special Revenue Officer about each tank, whether it should be maintained or its bed sold, orders will be passed. It will not be possible to consult the ryots in each case before passing orders, as requested by the member. The people of each locality had better see the Revenue Officer and put before him what they have to say.

104. Construction of the Irattakara caul.

The same member also requested that the Irattakara caul be soon constructed.

Dewan's reply.—This work has been sanctioned. But the construction of it is delayed, as proposals for the

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